

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1899

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS

REF: USNATO 1655

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PORTION OF DECISION SHEET OF DRC MEETING OF 26 MARCH 1974 (REFTEL) COVERING DISCUSSION OF US POSITION ON 1975-80 FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS.

BEGIN TEXT:

2. THE DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

(A) DISCUSSED THE LETTER CIRCULATED BY THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ON 4TH MARCH 1974, AND AGREED THAT:

(I) THERE WERE NO FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION AND OTHERS AS TO THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE DRC EXAMINATION OF THE FORCE GOALS, I. E. TO PROVIDE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WITH POSITIVE GUIDANCE FOR FORCE

PLANNING WHICH PRESENTED THEM WITH A 'REASONABLE CHALLENGE' WHILE BEING REALISTIC IN RELATION TO THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE;

(II) SOME DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE DEFENCE PROBLEMS AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THIS FLEXIBLE APPROACH WAS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE AGREED PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN DPC/D(71)10; COUNTRY EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED TO DATE HAD FOLLOWED THE LINES LAID DOWN IN THIS DOCUMENT AND IN THE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD;

(III) THESE EXAMINATIONS HAD PROVIDED EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, AND BY OTHER COUNTRIES ON INDIVIDUAL FORCE PROPOSALS, WHEN REACHING A COLLECTIVE VIEW ON THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS; THESE VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ONCE AGAIN IN CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISED COUNTRY CHAPTERS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON WHICH FORCE PROPOSALS THEY SHOULD RECOMMEND IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY AS A WHOLE;

(IV) ANY MAJOR REVISION OF THE AGREED FORCE PLANNING PROCEDURES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT FORCE GOALS STAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEXT FORCE PLANNING CYCLE;

(B) NOTED THAT THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES VIEWED THEIR FORCE PROPOSALS AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING A REASONABLY BALANCED FORCE TO CARRY OUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT NATO STRATEGY WITHIN THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS LAID DOWN IN THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; THUS ANY SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN THE FORCE PROPOSALS, OR THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES WOULD, IN THEIR VIEW, LEAD TO AN IMBALANCE IN NATO FORCES AND INCREASE THE DEGREE OF RISK.

END TEXT.

2. MISSION BELIEVES ABOVE TEXT ACCURATELY SETS OUT GIST OF DRC DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, AND PROPOSES TO APPROVE DECISION SHEET UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY 10 APRIL. COMMENT: WE HAVE DISPUTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO DISPUTE NMA POINT MADE IN

PARA(B), ABOVE, ON GROUNDS IT ASSUMES ALL NMA FORCE PROPOSALS
HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

END COMMENT. RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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